Suburban railway projects in Maharashtra

2966. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that suburban railway projects proposed by the Government of Maharashtra in the second Bombay Urban Transport Project has been pending for long because of indecision on certain issues relating to the projects;

(b) if so, what are the unresolved issues between the Central Government and the State Government of Maharashtra;

(c) whether it is a fact that World Bank has expressed its unwillingness to grant loan for the project till these issues are settled; and

(d) if so, what steps are contemplated by the Central Government in the wider interest of the overall economic development of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) For the original project, costing Rs. 1526.57 crores (Phase-I), Planning Commission is yet to approve 50 per cent cost of Railways' share, outside Railway's Plan outlay, as proposed.

(ii) The proposed extension of the project from Rs. 152657 to Rs. 2074. 50 crores, would be considered after implementation of Phase-I and stablisation of the traffic pattern.

(c) and (d) The project is under correspondence and yet to be finalised.

Facilities to decorated soldiers

2967. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are processing to give the facilities to highly distinguished defence personnel which are given to freedom fighters; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to financial constraints, it is difficult to enlarge the scope of free rail travel.

Stoppage of Purushottam Express at Bokaro

2968. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration regarding the stoppage of both up and down Purushottam Express at Bokaro Steel City Railway Station;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to industrial belt there is always a rush for reservation in all trains and in all classes, which presently is very less in number to fulfil the demand;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to raise the reservation quota from Bokaro in all trains especially linking capitals metros and important places;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) 2801/2802 Purushottam Express does not run via Bokaro Steel City.